

## CLAIMS

- 8/17
1. A method of producing a unique modified account name based on a requested account name that has been determined to already exist, the method comprising the steps of:  
selecting a word element from a list of word elements;  
combining the word element and the requested account name to produce a modified account name;  
comparing the modified account name with a list of existing account names to determine whether  
the modified account name is unique; and  
if the modified account name is unique, providing the modified account name to the user for  
acceptance.
  2. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the word element is randomly selected  
from the list of word elements.
  3. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the word element is an adjective.
  4. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the word element is an affix.
  5. A method as recited in claim 1, further comprising the step of producing a  
second modified account name based on the requested account name that has been determined to  
already exist, the second modified account name being produced by:  
randomly selecting a second word element from the list of word elements;

combining the second selected word element with the requested account name to produce the second modified account name;  
comparing the second modified account name with the list of existing account names to determine whether the second modified account name is unique; and  
if the second modified account name is unique, providing the second modified account name to the user for acceptance.

6. A method as recited in claim 1, further comprising the step of producing a unique seeded account name based on the requested account name, the unique seeded account name being produced by:  
combining the requested account name with a numerical seed to produce a first seeded account name;  
comparing the first seeded account name with the list of existing account names to determine whether the first seeded account name is unique; and  
if the first seeded account name is unique, providing the first seeded account name to the user for acceptance.

7. A method as recited in claim 6, wherein the seed is a single digit number, the method further comprises the steps of incrementing the numerical seed by one if the first seeded account name is not unique, combining the requested account name with the incremented seed to produce a second seeded account name, comparing the second seeded account name with the list of existing account names to determine whether the second seeded account name is unique, and if the

second seeded account name is unique, providing the second seeded account name to the user for acceptance.

8. A method as recited in claim 6, wherein the numerical seed is a multi-digit number that is randomly generated.

9. A method as recited in claim 8, further comprising the steps of generating a second multi-digit numerical seed if the first seeded account name is not unique, combining the requested account name with the second numerical seed to produce a second seeded account name, comparing the second seeded account name with the list of existing account names to determine whether the second seeded account name is unique, and if the second seeded account name is unique, providing the second seeded account name to the user for acceptance.

10. A method as recited in claim 6, further comprising the steps of combining the requested account name with both an underscore and the numerical seed to produce a second seeded account name if the first seeded account name is not unique, comparing the second seeded account name with the list of existing account names to determine whether the second seeded account name is unique, and if the second seeded account name is unique, providing the second seeded account name to the user for acceptance.

11. A method as recited in claim 1, further comprising the steps of:  
randomly selecting two further word elements and combining them to produce a random account name;

comparing the random account name with a list of existing account names to determine if the random account name is unique;  
if the random account name is unique, providing the account name to a user for acceptance.

12. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein if the modified account name is not unique, the steps for producing the unique modified account name are repeated for up to a predetermined number of iterations until a unique modified account name is produced.

13. A method as recited in claim 5, wherein if the second modified account name is not unique, the steps for producing the unique second modified account name are repeated for up to a predetermined number of iterations until a unique second modified account name is produced.

14. A method as recited in claim 6, wherein if the first seeded account name is not unique, the steps of producing the unique first seeded account name are repeated for up to a predetermined number of iterations until a unique first seeded account name is produced.

15. A method as recited in claim 1, further comprising the steps of combining the requested account name with both an underscore and the randomly selected word element to produce a second modified account name if the first modified account name is not unique, comparing the second modified account name with the list of existing account names to determine whether the second modified account name is unique, and if the second modified account name is unique, providing the second modified account name to the user for acceptance.

Year	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036	2037	2038	2039	2040	2041	2042	2043	2044	2045	2046	2047	2048	2049	2050	2051	2052	2053	2054	2055	2056	2057	2058	2059	2060	2061	2062	2063	2064	2065	2066	2067	2068	2069	2070	2071	2072	2073	2074	2075	2076	2077	2078	2079	2080	2081	2082	2083	2084	2085	2086	2087	2088	2089	2090	2091	2092	2093	2094	2095	2096	2097	2098	2099	2100
1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036	2037	2038	2039	2040	2041	2042	2043	2044	2045	2046	2047	2048	2049	2050	2051	2052	2053	2054	2055	2056	2057	2058	2059	2060	2061	2062	2063	2064	2065	2066	2067	2068	2069	2070	2071	2072	2073	2074	2075	2076	2077	2078	2079	2080	2081	2082	2083	2084	2085	2086	2087	2088	2089	2090	2091	2092	2093	2094	2095	2096	2097	2098	2099	2100	

if the account name is unique, providing the account name to the user for acceptance.



24. A computer-readable medium having computer-executable components for producing a unique modified account name based on a requested account name that has been determined to already exist, comprising:

a user interface component for receiving an account name request;

a database component including a list of word elements and a list of existing account names;

a name generating component for selecting word elements from the list of word elements and combining the word elements with the requested account name to produce modified account names; and

a search component for comparing the modified account names with a list of existing account names to determine whether the modified account names are unique and, if the modified account names are unique, providing the modified account names to the user for acceptance.

25. A computer-readable medium as recited in claim 24, wherein the word elements are affixes.

26. A computer-readable medium as recited in claim 24, wherein the word elements are adjectives.

27. A computer-readable medium as recited in claim 24, wherein the name generating component randomly selects the word elements from the list of word elements.

28. A computer-readable medium as recited in claim 24, wherein the name generating component further produces a seeded account name based on the requested account name, the seeded account name being produced by combining the requested account name with a numerical seed, the search component comparing the seeded account name with the list of existing account names to determine whether the seeded account name is unique, and if the seeded account names is unique, providing the seeded account name to the user for acceptance.

29. A computer-readable medium as recited in claim 24, wherein the name generating component further produces a random account name by selecting two further word elements and combining them, the search component comparing the random account name with the list of existing account names to determine whether the random account name is unique, and if the random account name is unique, providing the random account name to the user for acceptance.

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